

CONTRIBUTION
TO THE
ICHTHYOLOGY OF AUSTRALIA.

No. IX.—NEW SORTS FOR THE VICTORIAN
FAUNA.

During the publication of this paper, I have obtained three fishes that I had not observed previously; two are new to science, and the third already described.

One belongs to the genus *Oligorus*, which was formed by Dr. Gunther on a species of *Grystes* of Cuvier, but as I already mentioned in the first vol. of these Transactions, p. 53, he adds to it a large New Zealand sort, which evidently cannot remain in the same generic division. Having since obtained more information on this latter, which is the *Hapuku* of the natives of New Zealand and the *Oligorus Gigas* of Dr. Gunther, I proposed forming on it a genus that I named *Hectoria* in honour to the celebrated Dr. Hector (*Notes on the Edible Fishes of Victoria in the Melbourne Exhibition Essays*, 1872).

The genus *Oligorus* is thus restricted to the *Murray Cod*, but I believe that two distinct species are confounded under this name.

OLIGORUS MITCHELII.

The head much broader; the eye considerably larger, being contained only six times in the total length of the head and twice in the length of the snout to the anterior edge of the eye; the upper jaw is longer than the lower, which is not the case in *Macquariensis*. The distance between the eye is not contained quite three times in

the total length of the head. The operculum is much more rounded, and the second ridge of the præoperculum is not hardly visible ; the greatest breadth of the head is contained once and two-thirds in its length ; the caudal is rather longer and more rounded.

The height of the body is contained three times and two-thirds in the total length, or three times and one-third without the caudal ; this height is rather less than the height of the head. The upper profile is more convex than in the usual sort.

The colour is of a livid grey, covered entirely with small round obscure spots.

The fishmongers consider this fish as distinct, and give it the name of *Murray Perch* (not the *Golden Perch*, which is a *Dules*).

The specimen is near thirty inches long, it was caught in the Murray in the beginning of April.

NOTA.—I find that the small spotted specimen I mentioned in the beginning of the present paper, belongs to this sort.

MUGIL PERONII

Mugil Peronii, *Cuv. and Val.*, vol. xi., p. 138.

In the beginning of this century, the learned naturalists, Péron and LeSueur, who accompanied Captain Baudin in his exploration of Australia, found at Western Port a sort of *Mugil*, which does not appear to have been observed since, and to which Cuvier and Valenciennes gave the name of *Peronii*.

A few days ago (5th March, 1873), my attention was called by a fishmonger to a *Mullet*, which seemed different to the *Sand Mullet* (*M. Waigiensis*), and on examining this fish, I soon found that it was the long forgotten Péron's sort ; having seen such large quantities of *Mullets* from Western Port, I had come to the conclusion that the locality mentioned by Cuvier and Valenciennes was a different one from the Bass's Straits Port, and I was confirmed in this opinion by the erroneous

statement made by these naturalists, that the Western Port they mention is situated on the *North Western Coast* of New Holland. It is certainly strange that Baudin's naturalists should have observed, during the few days they remained in that Bay, a fish that seems so rare.

The adipose eyelid is not developed ; the anal fin has ten soft rays ; the longitudinal line is formed of thirty-five large scales, and of six small caudal ones, making forty-one ; there is no scale behind the base of the pectorals ; the upper lip is not thick ; the vertical fins are not scaly ; the first dorsal spine is longer than the other, and half the length of the head ; the anal inserted on the vertical of the second dorsal ; the head as long as the breadth of the body ; the diameter of the eye contained nearly once and a-half in the snout ; the space between the eyes contained twice and two-thirds in the length of the head. Maxillaries visible ; height of the body contained four times in the length without the caudal ; this fin is as long, at its centre, as the space from the posterior edge of the eye to the extremity of the operculum ; ventrals inserted nearer to the pectorals than to the first dorsal ; the depth of the tail is equal to the height of the head at the posterior edge of the orbit ; the space at the chin between the mandibles is strongly emarginated.

Upper parts of a slate colour ; sides and belly white and silvery ; on the first, some very faint longitudinal streaks formed by the lines which are on the middle of the scales ; a golden spot at the upper angle of the operculum ; eye silvery.

The specimen is ten inches long.

This sort is very much like *M. Waigiensis*, but is shorter ; the tail higher ; the lobes of the caudal are more pointed, with its centre longer ; head more pointed when seen sideways, but at its upper part it is not quite so broad, and rather angular in front ; pectorals longer, extending to the ninth scale of the longitudinal line, and of a lighter colour, with a dark spot on their base ; second dorsal not emarginated but pointed upwards and white ; anal higher, and having its upper part shorter and its lower one much longer than the upper.

GALAXIAS ORNATUS.

Body elongate ; its height contained seven times in the total length ; head as long as the height of the body ; lower jaw rather longer than the upper one ; eye rather shorter than the snout, and contained four times in the length of the head ; the dorsal of ten rays, the first of which is very short ; this fin is inserted at a distance from the snout double to the one up to the base of the caudal ; this last strongly emarginated ; anal placed a little behind the dorsal of eleven rays ; the ventrals are inserted at an equal distance to the base of the pectorals and to the one of the anal ; they have seven rays ; the pectorals are as long as the space between the posterior edge of the eye and the extremity of the operculum ; they have twelve rays.

The colour of the living specimen was of a light green, with the lower parts of a golden yellow ; the back has numerous transverse bands, rather narrow, but well defined, of an obscure green. These bands are not agglomerations of fine points, as in many other species ; eyes yellow ; fins of a light yellow.

The largest of my specimens measures four and a-half inches. From the Cardinia Creek, Victoria.

